

# **Wisconsin Muslim Civic Alliance Condemns United States Senator Ron Johnson's Statement about Palestinian Refugees**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 21, 2024

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The Wisconsin Muslim Civic Alliance, advocating for the more than 70,000 Wisconsin Muslims, condemns United States Senator Ron Johnson's bigoted statements on Fox News. Senator Johnson's ignorant remarks perpetuate harmful stereotypes against Palestinians while simultaneously promoting Islamophobia, anti-Arab racism, and hate.

On May 4, 2024, Senator Johnson appeared on Fox News to comment on the Biden administration's potential plan to allow some Palestinians into the U.S. as refugees. He stated, "It's awful the way young children in Palestine are indoctrinated to hate not only Jews, but all infidels. And, so, they're dangerous people. And, so, they try and keep them bottled up in Gaza and the West Bank, and, so, this continues to spill over into these horrific incidences. But we need to keep it bottled up. We need to let Israel destroy Hamas and then try and live in peace with Palestinians who are willing to do so."

Senator Johnson's assertion that Palestinians are universally taught to hate Jews and all other infidels is a gross misrepresentation of a group of people who are currently experiencing unprecedented levels of violence, bombardment, starvation and displacement. Not only do his comments dehumanize Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims, but they lack any grounding in fact or evidence. This rhetoric is bigotry disguised as political commentary, seemingly aimed at appealing to extremist, far-right donors rather than addressing the concerns of average Wisconsinites.

Senator Johnson's remarks betray the legacy of America's founders, who envisioned a multi-ethnic and religiously pluralistic society where liberty and justice are available to all. His statements were not only ignorant and bigoted but also exacerbate anti-immigrant, anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, and anti-Muslim sentiments. At a time when hate is alarmingly high, with Palestinian American children being targeted in violent attacks, Senator Johnson's irresponsible rhetoric is particularly reprehensible. It was only seven months ago that 6-year-old Wadea Al-Fayoume, a Palestinian-American child living in Chicago, was murdered by an assailant who espoused the same kind of hate. Senator Johnson's rhetoric is representative of his consistent disregard for Wisconsin's Muslim communities. Despite numerous invitations to engage with our community and visit a Wisconsin mosque, Senator Johnson has consistently declined.

We call upon Senator Johnson to immediately retract his statements and issue an apology to the Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim communities who are harmed by his ignorant remarks. We call upon the Senator to engage in a meaningful dialogue with the Muslim community regarding his remarks. Statements like those made by Senator Johnson contribute to a divisive narrative and hinder the prospects for peace and mutual understanding, especially in his home state of Wisconsin. It is crucial to approach such sensitive topics with accuracy, empathy, and a commitment to truth, avoiding broad generalizations that only serve to inflame tension and stigmatize different Wisconsin communities.

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To learn more about the Wisconsin Muslim Civic Alliance (501c4) visit our website [www.wmcalliance.org](http://www.wmcalliance.org).  
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